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12 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

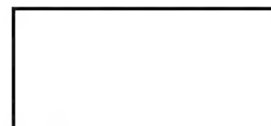
FROM : Cord Meyer, Jr.

SUBJECT : Review of Strategic Warning Staff and  
Support of It by Agency Elements

25X1 1. Per your request I have reviewed the functions of the Special Assistant to the DCI for Strategic Warning and the Strategic Warning Staff. In the course of this review I have consulted with [redacted] and the heads of those offices within the Agency which support and work with SWS. My conclusions are as follows:

25X1 a. Adequacy of the SWS Basic Charter as Contained in DCID 1/5 - There is general agreement that a small and qualified staff, such as SWS, should be focused on the specific problem of strategic warning defined as the threat of attack by the Soviet Union, Warsaw Pact, China and North Korea. In spite of the unlikelihood of such an event we must afford the luxury of a small and expert group with this responsibility in view of its importance to our over-all mission. The location of the staff in the Pentagon has worked satisfactorily, as has [redacted] as Special Assistant to the DCI.

b. Access to All-Source Intelligence in the Strategic Warning Field - The staff has access to all the information that it feels it needs from DIA, NSA and from the components of the Agency. One gap is the unavailability of NODIS traffic from State but there is no solution to this problem other than to proceed as you are doing with the top levels at State.



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c. Publications - The monthly SWS Report and the weekly Alert List show that the staff is alert to new developments and techniques in the strategic warning field and the publications seem to be well received and responded to by customers both in the military and in the Agency.

d. Periodic Review of SWS by the Strategic Warning Review Group - Periodic review is called for by DCID 1/5 and the most recent review was conducted 11 June 1976, copy attached. I have found nothing to cause me to disagree with its findings.

2. Suggestions were made for additional activity by SWS. The Director of OCI admits that over time there may have been some atrophy in the sense of responsibility for strategic warning by the analysts and he would welcome the assistance of the Director of SWS in a seminar or series of briefings bringing them up to date on developments in this field. In addition the Acting Deputy Director of OSR suggested that the Director of SWS might be more active in seeking input from the Community and stated that OSR would be glad to contribute studies on specific issues in the strategic warning field.

3. Staffing Problem - DCID 1/5 states in general terms that the members of NFIB will "provide full-time senior professional intelligence personnel" to the SWS, but there seems to be no other formal document defining the over-all size of the staff or requiring NFIB members to provide a specified number of people at a particular grade. [ ]

[ ] first Director of SWS, agreed to the need for a professional staff of [ ] analysts in addition to the Director. This number reflected a desire to have broad community representation, but to stay within the general requirement that the staff be kept small. The plan was to have [ ] representatives from CIA, DIA and NSA, and [ ] from State and each of the Services. In the 18 months of its existence, the SWS has operated with [ ] analysts on duty. At present, the on-board complement in addition to the Director is:

DIA  
NSA  
CIA  
Air Force

\*Serves as Deputy Director of SWS

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In addition the Army has designated an O-4 who will report on 13 September and the Marine Corps has volunteered to assign an officer. Both Navy and State remain reluctant to participate.

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Both [ ] believe that the formal establishment of a Table of Organization with the required slots would be of great assistance. All offices that now contribute personnel to the staff must use one of their own slots for the assigned individual, and in the case of smaller components this can work a real hardship. Somewhat longer assignments would be beneficial to the staff and would be easier for an agency to make if it could retain and temporarily refill its slot. The Special Assistant and the Director of SWS would have a stronger hand in the selection of people with a resultant improvement in quality. There is unanimous agreement among all those consulted that such a change would be beneficial to the staff, if the slots can be found.

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Recommendation: Consideration should be given to the establishment of [ ] slots under the DCI for the SWS.

Cord Meyer, Jr.

Attachment: As stated